

Dublin-Darlington Community Council

Minutes: February 15, 2012
Conowingo Visitor Center

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Rich Norling (presiding)
Stephen P. Smith
J. Alan Thompson

Brendan Patton
James Murphy

Lilma Huntley
Russell Kovach

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Honorable Elizabeth Bowen
John Sauers
Jane Walker

John Jones
Susan Kelly
Capt. Keith Warner

Billy Boniface
Bob Riley
Mike Comeau

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Rich Norling.
- 2) Lilma Huntley moved to approve minutes of January 18, 2012 meeting, seconded by Stephen Smith. Motion unanimously approved.
- 3) Jane Walker, representative from the County Executive's office was recognized, no report was given.
- 4) Council President Billy Boniface reported that the County Council will take its final vote on the Master Plan update on March 6.
- 5) Captain Warner reported that there has been an increase in thefts, particularly in the evening (Prospect Road, Glen Cove and other surrounding areas within the Dublin/Darlington district). Sheriff's Office has increased patrols in the area. Some arrests have been made. Sheriff's office would like to encourage citizens to call if there is any suspicious activity, please do not worry about multiple calls from the same event. Harford County does not have information regarding the Darlington Pharmacy break-in that was responded to State Police. Further concern was expressed by a guest concerning truck traffic in Darlington, particularly those that try to avoid weight station by using Quaker Church, Stafford, and Shuresville Roads. Neither Sheriff's Office nor State Troopers have patrol strength to stop all truck traffic on backcountry roads, but both entities are aware. Gratitude was expressed for increased patrols along Castleton Road near Hosanna Church.
- 6) Newly appointed Circuit Court Judge M. Elizabeth (Beth) Bowen visited to explain the role of Circuit Court Judge and discuss her upcoming election (Circuit Court Judges must stand for election in the first general election following appointment). Judge Bowen was a prosecutor in Harford County specializing in child abuse cases, and was instrumental in advocacy programs that support child wellbeing in the county and state. Campaign advisor Mike Comeau explained the election process for sitting judges. Circuit Court Judges appear on both Democratic and Republican ballots in the April primary. If the same person wins both primaries, only one name appears on the general election ballot. Two other candidates have filed for the race, both of which have run multiple times before, H. Edward Andrews and Steven J. Scheinin.
- 7) Getting There Ride Share Director, Susan Kelly described the groundbreaking program designed to provide transportation for elderly (60 and older) citizens in the Whiteford / Darlington / Dublin / Havre de Grace areas. Seniors register and a volunteer driver will be made available to provide transportation to and from medical appointments, shopping trips, or other places as requested by those in need. Those interested in services can register through senior groups or the Wilson Ministry Center; volunteer drivers are needed as well (the neighbor to neighbor program facilitates volunteers who can contribute time as they are able). Seniors are charged \$5 per trip, however if they are unable to pay the ride will be provided free of charge. Volunteer drivers must have a good driving record and no criminal past (Sheriff's Office delivers volunteer orientation). Supplemental liability insurance is provided for

drivers under the Wilson Ministry. Mrs. Kelly asked all in attendance to spread the word both to those who may need services and those who may be interested in volunteering.

If interested in volunteering or using GTRS services can contact Susan Kelly by email at rideshare3005@gmail.com or phone at 410-836-3005. Visit www.gettingthererideshare.org for additional information.

8) LNG pipeline: no recent events. The industry seems to be shifting focus, and may be abandoning pipeline efforts in Harford County.

9) State highways representative, John Vananzo, will be unable to attend spring town meeting, but will send a letter updating the community on efforts underway in response to feedback from the fall meeting.

10) Bill of interest to members of the community, Senate Bill 260, has been introduced. The bill would create a Harford/Cecil Highway Impact Revenue Account intended to generate revenues for road repair as a result of expected increases in traffic on county roads leading to the Conowingo Dam after the tolls are increased on routes 95 and 40. The bill is not expected to pass the state Senate. Traffic counts are being conducted to evaluate extent of increased traffic over Conowingo Dam as a result of toll changes. Price Road intersection work is progressing; hill along 161 has been marked and will be graded. A hidden entrance sign will be provided in a nearby driveway. Council President Boniface was recognized for his efforts in securing these changes. Upgrades to Castleton Road were acknowledged.

Old/New Business:

1) Question about salt dome removal in Level; dome was not needed hence removal and will not be replaced.
Question about road work

2) Question about 'bonus' money to be distributed to teachers. Bill has not yet been introduced into County Council.

3) Requested modifications to Dublin/Darlington section of the new Master Plan are being made by Council Chairman Boniface.

4) State Highway Administration will not be at the Spring Town Meeting (see above).

5) The Harford County Cultural Arts Center will send a representative to the Town Meeting to address ongoing efforts.

6) County land has been dedicated to the new Agricultural Resource Center near route 136 to be constructed as funds are available.

7) Bicycle and pedestrian Master Plan advocates should be considered as future guest presenters.

Announcements:

1) Copy of Lower Susquehanna River Watershed Study Initiation Notice was circulated

2) Historic preservation award nominations are due

3) Board of trustees of HCC now has two members from Darlington, Bryan Kelly and Rich Norling. HCC has one of 39 cyber security certified programs in the country.

4) John Jones recognized the letter that Rich Norling drafted on behalf of the Council concerning the transfer station. Joppa Community Council meeting on March 5th will feature a discussion about the transfer station.

Meeting motioned to adjourn at 8:24pm by Alan Thompson, seconded by Stephen Smith.

Submitted by Russell Kovach